

DIRECT ACTION

SYNDICALIST WORKERS FEDERATION

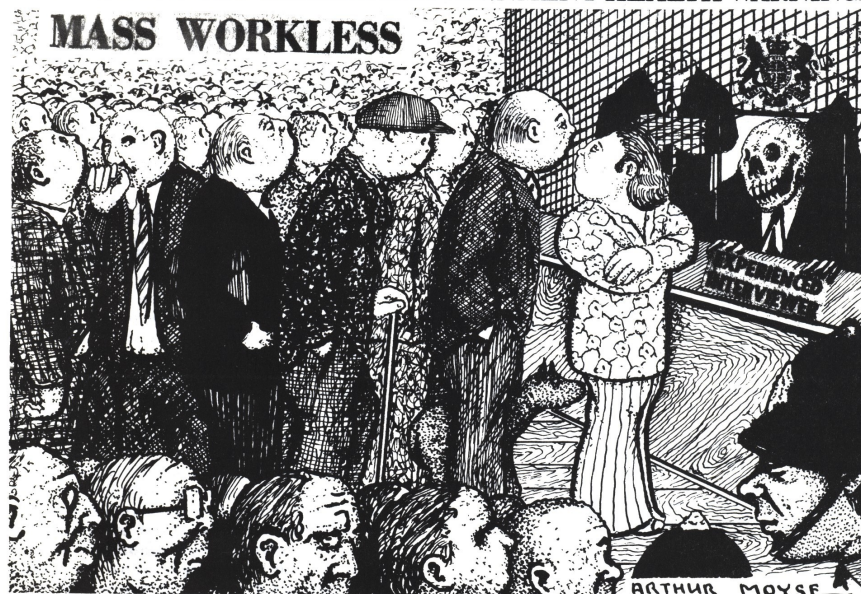
British Section of the International Workers Association

5p

no. 9

As defined by H.M. Government

EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING.



WHO'S NEXT ON THE DOLE?

MILLIONAIRES?

British Workers are once again in the millionaire class. On the Dole! Within the next 12 months, the number of unemployed in this Country will almost certainly reach 2 millions. This is a direct result of the Labour Government's refusal to reflate the economy until the remaining workers have regained their "profitability". This means producing more for less wages. The TUC, endorsed the £6 increase limit will cover only a fraction of the cost of living increases during 1975-76.

In the second quarter of this year prices rose by over 50%. Wage settlements over the last 12

"WHAT WAS IT LIKE FOR YOU DAD BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR?"

"THE SAME AS FOR MY DAD AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR - STANDING IN A BLOODY DOLE QUEUE"

months have averaged less than 20% and it must be remembered that the greatest wage increases went to those already in the top income bracket. Police, Civil Service, Local Govt. salaries all increased by up to 40%. The top brass of course got the largest share of the cake. If shop workers were granted the whole of the permitted £6 increase - which they won't - it would mean a wage rise of 25% for most of them. We must applaud the militancy of the House of Commons in "winning" their huge wage rise at the last possible moment.

A CAPITAL OUTLOOK

Though the outlook is bleak for British workers, for the Capitalist class the future looks quite rosy. Since we joined the E.E.C.

CONT'D ON PAGE 7

ECONOMIC PROBLEM: NO SNAP SOLUTION

"What do you think about this Labour Government then?" queried the girl selling 'Workers Press' outside Manbre Sugars, in Hammersmith, as I came off the night shift last month. No doubt the question, which must have been inspired by the Governments current economic measures, required detailed treatment, but all I could muster was a sickly sexist smile as I fled after the number 11 bus. Leaving my mate to mutter that it was a bit early in the morning to be thinking of things like that.

MANBRE

Of course unknown to these trots, the process workers of Manbre had just acted out a little drama over pay in which the Labour Governments policies played no small part in influencing the outcome. The workers who had at first been reluctant to accept the managements offer of a £5-6 per week, non-negotiable and with no further pay rises until October 1976, suddenly snatched the bosses hand off.

Over night the workers at Manbre had become aware that some kind of wage freeze policy was in the pipeline and wanted to get their increase before it came into effect. This is unlikely to be the end of the matter, since the lads at Manbre are sure to be pursuing another rise well before the October 1976 deadline is reached.

As with all authoritarian solutions the basic problem has been shelved, hidden and disguised, until the conflict is resumed at a later date.

SOCIAL CONFLICT

National economics is a mystery to most of us, few feel genuinely obliged to put themselves out to prop-up our current economic crisis. Most people, I suspect consider the present economic system set-up cheats them, in some way or other. But to date most have been content with to make small and slow inroads into the wealth of the country, while we try to get our own back by fiddling the system through hidden techniques of job control, expences frauds, and lying to the SS. and so on.

What has now started upsetting this traditional game is the growing power of some sections of organised labour which has begun disrupting the structure of rewards. One of the results of this of this has been the current inflationary situation in which the British middle classes struggle to maintain their pay differentials against strong groups such as the miners.

In other words, what we are now witnessing is a conflict in which elements in the middle-classes fight for their privileges and a lions share of scarce resources, against the challenge from well organised sections of the working classes.

THE EXPERT REMEDIES

In this situation two main schools of thought compete for the attention of the government, offering themselves as instant solutions to the Nations problems.

First, those who advocate incomes policies like the one currently being tried by the Labour government, J.K. Galbraith argues that a permanent incomes policy would reduce inequality, help the low paid, avoid large scale unemployment and is vital to any stable economy. This approach looks

to the State to determine income levels and deal with dissatisfied elements. One snag here is that all the five previous post war incomes policies have failed. It is likely that the current one is largely a shot in the dark and that its effective life will be short. Also, as soon as the novelty begins to wear off for the trade unions and their members, it will become impossible for the government to enforce it.

The monetarist position rejects this state interference on incomes, and claims that the correct method is for the government to limit the money supply -controlling the credit, and cut back on public spending. This could produce mass unemployment and bankruptcies which in theory should solve inflation by way of the market. This is pure economic theory based on the assumption that the market can be left free to operate the 'laws' of supply and demand in isolation from all other human activity. In reality of course, the probable consequences of such a policy would be widespread factory occupations, riots, and possibly revolution.

The essence of these authoritarian solutions, be they based on State intervention and incomes policy, or monetary policy, are that they are presented as instant remedies to human problems. That is they imply that the government by waving a magic wand and tightening money supply or adjusting taxes or passing a law on incomes, may solve the economic situation. The history of the past ten years has shown us the poverty of such ingenious schemes and short cuts from both politicians and economists.

THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

A Spaniard once told me that his father was not angry after he'd been cheated by a gypsy because the fraud had been carried out elegantly with an element of charm. The charm which the labour govt. and various capitalist managements once had for ordinary people is wearing thin, in fact it is becoming an insult to our intelligence.

What the politicians and economists are doing is trying to solve the problems of economic scarcity and other aspects of the economy by resorting to a series of clever tricks and short term remedies, which help maintain a power set-up largely unacceptable to the majority. At the same time most workers often seem to regard their own management as either unimaginative or incompetent.

Now in this situation how can there be any lasting or satisfactory solution to either the overall economic situation in the country or at factory level? Clearly there cannot.

The Syndicalist position on this question is that the root of the problem can only be tackled

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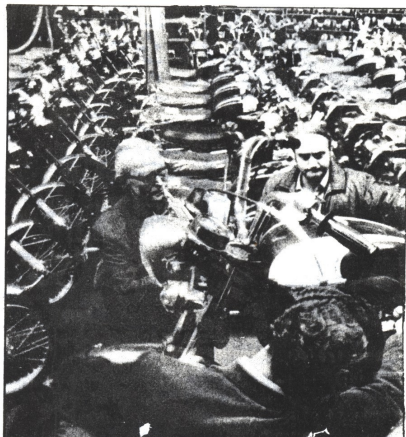


WULF AT THE DOOR

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The month long occupation of Norton Villiers Wolverhampton plant has not been an idle gesture. Motorcycle workers guarding the half finished "Commando" machines, tools and spares from the N.V.T. bailiffs, have made good use of their time and skill. Using a radically different engine design which was developed at Norton Villiers only to be scrapped by Denis Poore, The Wolverhampton workers have designed and built their own machine which they have called the "Wulf". They say that this design can be adopted to a whole range of bikes, and they plan to use it to rebuild the motorcycle industry which has been dismantled by the "knackers" of the business world.

The Norton Villiers workers should be supported by every worker. If the Labour Govt. refuses them funds the Trade union movement should finance the venture itself. The motorcycle workers have shown what can be done when workers take direct action against the bosses. They should not be allowed to fail because of lack of support by their fellow workers.



Moving into second gear: Meriden workers and their motorbikes.

A COCK~ EYED SYSTEM

Any sane society would welcome a record harvest. Surely such an occasion should be one of elation. However under the present system where profits are paramount, bumper harvests of any foodstuffs, let alone wheat, give concern, both to the farmers and the authorities.

Food like any other item is grown to make a profit. We are well aware that when a commodity is in short supply, the price is increased. Indeed such shortages have been created deliberately to ensure a shortage and high prices. In some cases this has meant that surpluses have been burnt or allowed to rot. At other times the far sighted Govt. officials have paid farmers to keep their land fallow. Such are the crimes committed by the state in the name of profit, while others starve.

Once again the wheat plains of America and Canada have produced a bumper harvest. On the other hand the Soviet Union crop has fallen short of their requirements. For the American farmer this shortage is very welcome because the Soviet authorities have purchased their surpluses at a higher price than they would have had if they had been sold on the home market. The huge profits for the grain companies soon overcame any doubts they might have had to selling it to the commies. After all business is business and any way the countries where they need food have not got the necessary foreign exchange to purchase it.

But in the present economic situation exporting the grain surplus brings other problems to the capitalist system, namely inflation. Grain exports will mean increases for home consumers. This is why dockers on the eastern seaboard have refused to load grain shipments. Court injunctions forced them back, but these simple facts affecting foodstuffs show how cock-eyed our economic system is.

There are 900,000,000 people threatened with starvation. They of course live in the so called undeveloped countries who can not afford huge imports but who have to be content with aid, the crumbs from the rich countries table. Certainly there is enough land to grow food for everyone. But the trouble is that so much grain is grown which is used to feed livestock.

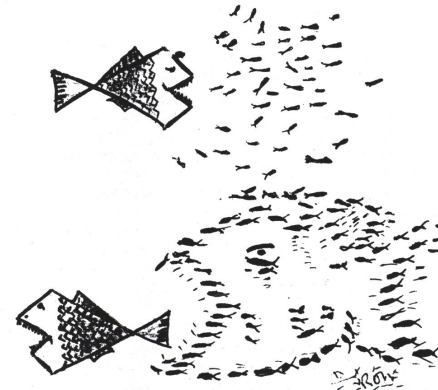
"In America about 2000 pounds of grain are used each year to feed each person his or her livestock based diet. 150 pounds of that 2000 are used directly; the rest of the quantity is fed to animals, returning about one pound of food on the plate in the form of livestock products (meat, milk, cheeses, eggs, poultry, pork, lamb, veal, etc.) for each eight pounds of grain fed to animals."*

There are numerous examples which show that the main concern of our present system when it comes to growing food is profit. For instance some countries are synonymous with certain crops Brazil, coffee, Cuba, sugar and Ceylon with tea. And yet at one time or another the populations of these countries have suffered starvation. All could diversify their crops, except that would upset America in the case of coffee and Britain over tea.

Food is far too important to be placed on a monetary basis of profit and loss. As populations increase in future decades, it will become, if it is not already, the most important issue facing mankind. As syndicalists we know that when the land is under the control of those that plough and sow it, vast improvements are forthcoming. The collectives during the Spanish revolution show us this. Then food was grown for the needs of the community and not to make a landowner rich. Until we have achieved the Spanish example on a world scale people will continue to go short or starve on some part of our planet.

P.T.

*The World Food Crisis, The Match July/August 75



Workers- Solidarity

Workers solidarity was formed in May 1971, after a three week strike had been totally defeated at the meat company Schaub+Co. in Nyborg. This defeat was mainly due to the sell out by both the Workers' Union, and the Labour Confederation (the Danish equivalent to the TUC) who declared the strike unofficial which meant, as in this country, that the Schaub workers did not receive any strike pay. The Union also co-operated with the management in taking the strikers before the Labour Court, and approved of the sacking of their militant members.

It was then realised by some of the militants that this would happen again and again, unless workers, whether they were in the same industry or not, supported each other. It was seen that the organisation of support would have to be completely separate from the trade unions which, because they are as much good as the unions in the USSR, declare any strikes which break the current collective bargain agreement unofficial and which obviously would not support members of other unions who were on unofficial strike. (Incidentally the current collective bargains don't expire until 1977, by Govt. decree.) Even at local level, the members of the branch committees have a duty to persuade other members of their branch not to break the collective bargain agreements otherwise the union can expel them.

It was with this in mind that Workers Solidarity was formed. Within a short period it had about 500 members although it now numbers about 70 members, but it has started to rise again. This large drop in numbers occurred because once the various authoritarian left group groups realised that they could not take over Workers Solidarity for their own sectarian purposes their members left, leaving Workers Solidarity in effect a Libertarian organisation. Initially the aims of Workers Solidarity were to combat the labour court and to raise money for strikers. As we have already seen the second aim is very important because of the way the unions react to any strike that breaks the collective agreements which by necessity,

most strikes must. Added to this however is the fact that if workers break a collective bargain then their employer is entitled to take them to the Labour Court. Something which employers are not loth to do. The court will then fine the workforce so much per hour while the workers continue to break the collective bargain. The fines are deducted out of their wage packets when they return to work. Workers Solidarity sees the most effective way of fighting these fines is not to help pay them for the victims but for the workers themselves to take direct action and to strike anytime management tries to enforce the Labour Court's decision. If this was done effectively then the Court would only exist on paper and have as much power as the court of Toytown over the workers.

The demand by the employers association during the recent Copenhagen bus strike was that the Labour Court give the jobs of the strikers over as free (i.e. sack the strikers) has made it necessary to fight the court harder than ever. This is because blacking the vacant jobs would not be an easy matter (precisely why the employers made the demand) due to the regulations of the Danish Social Security system which say that if any one refuses a job offered then they will lose their unemployment pay - obviously in a situation of scabbing or starving most people would choose the first. Luckily the bosses tactic did not work in the case of the Copenhagen bus men, but the employers association is making a concerted effort at the moment.

One of the things that Workers Solidarity found out was that even though financial support is important, it does not always guarantee success. Part of the reason for this was that some of the strikes which were lost were not organised properly by the rank and file, although sabotage committed by the Trade Unions and shop stewards played a part. For example in one strike shop stewards lied about the results of negotiations just to get people back to work (whose side are they on?).

At this point Workers Solidarity started to put forward, to other workers, the idea of setting up strike committees made up of delegates who would put forward the demands of the workforce and carry out the essential co-ordinating work during the strike. Naturally any delegate who did not carry out his or her duties properly was subject to immediate recall.

Although this improved things somewhat Workers Solidarity decided to agitate for permanent shop committees separate from the trade union structure, not necessarily having the same members as the strike committees. Again the delegates would be subject to immediate recall and would have to constantly refer matters to those workers not on the committee. Workers Solidarity for the building and supporting of these committees, and to the building of contacts between them, whether in the same industry or not.

It is hoped by Workers Solidarity that this will result in an effective opposition to the present Govt. controlled unions in Denmark.

Scientists have been a long way behind in dealing with industrial health hazards. If you wait for them to come up with the solutions, some of you will be dead first. They complicate the issue, by creating terms like Threshold Limit Value, Dose-Response Curves, and by separating work of different specialists when the answer may be staring them in the face. There's a lot of science that needs to be done, but much of it isn't being done.

DUST DISEASES

The main group of dust diseases are FIBROTIC, caused by particles from 2-5 microns in size. (the smallest you can see are 50-100 microns, but if you can see them, you can bet the others are there too.) These particles get through the nose and throat and into the lungs, where the body reacts by forming a fibrous nodule round each particle.

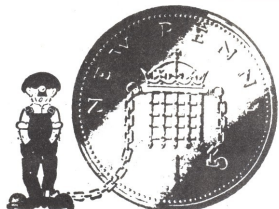
Which means that other plastic products--polyurethane foam dust, synthetic fibres--could do the same. The disease is based more on particle size than chemical action.

Increase in the number of these nodules cuts down the surface area for oxygen transfer, resulting at first in breathlessness. These diseases develop slowly, they are irreversible and incapacitating but according to the scientists don't IN THEMSELVES reduce life expectancy. Varieties include silicosis (sand), asbestosis, pneumoconiosis, and now PVC is recognised as a cause of a related condition.

CANCER

Other diseases which are made more probable by exposure to industrial dusts include Lung Cancer; the incidence of cancer is sharply increased by working with asbestos--half of all workers with asbestos get it. Recently a similar incidence was found for coal; and the same might apply to other related dust diseases.

Apart from cancer, other lung diseases aggravated by dust include Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema.



GUIDE TO HEALTH AT WORK



"Sorry Fred, we've only got two masks
the vicar's here to see you"

WHAT ARE THE DANGERS?... HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM... WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT...

But chemicals as well as dusts can cause specific cancers such as Mesothelioma, cancer of the lining of the lung, specifically caused by exposure to asbestos: and an-

other lung cancer is caused by BONE; a potent carcinogen, which can be formed by the reaction of formaldehyde and HCl, both commonplace chemicals. Which brings us to

CHEMICALS

As opposed to dusts, these get right into the body. It would be impossible to mention all the dangerous substances around, one source has estimated that a new, potentially dangerous substance comes on the market every 20 minutes.

Among the chemicals usually used as solvents, etc--which is where most workers are likely to encounter organic chemicals--a number affect the nervous system in the short term and the blood--hence the liver-- in the longterm. Examples include PHENOL, the disinfectant which has just polluted that reservoir in Rochdale, which is rapidly absorbed through the skin and attacks the nervous system; BENZENE which attacks the bone-marrow and is in the long term carcinogenic; XYLENE--often used as the solvent in paint-stripper-- (blood, liver and kidney damage); TOLUENE, often used as being less harmful than benzene, but none of these are harmless; your reflexes are slowed down by exposure to any of these solvents, which will make you more subject to accidents.

METHANOL is very damaging to the nervous system and especially affects the eyes, and causes long term liver damage. ETHANOL (ethyl alcohol) also causes liver damage.

CHLORINATED HYDROCARBONS (carbon tet, chloroform, trike) again damage the nervous system and eventually the liver. These also give an example of how chemical hazards might interact; the combination of carbondisulphide, carbon monoxide and trike damages the cells of the inner ear.

SPOTTING HAZARDS

How does the "medical-industrial complex" spot a hazard? There are three ways.

Firstly, experiments on animals, usually a 3-week long series of experiments. Because of cost there are very few long-term studies carried out.

Secondly, epidemiological work— in depth health studies of groups of people, or "counting the bodies" as has been done on asbestos workers etc. Often this is picked up by workers noticing something as happened with Vinyl Chloride.

Thirdly chemical evidence, which mainly depends on GPs or Company doctors who sometimes don't notice evidence if its staring them in the face—.

There is a fourth way: looking at molecular structures. This hasn't been developed yet because the scientists have spent most of their time rearranging molecules to find ones that will sell. E.g. of chemical patents taken out between 1969-1973 in the USA, 25% were by DuPont, 18% by Dow Chemicals; they OWN that knowledge.

Yet there is a remarkable similarity between the molecules of Vinyl Chloride and Trike. Last year, even company doctors working with Vinyl Chloride realised something was up. This highlighted the changing nature of disease with changing processes—that the so-called 'Safe' new petrochemical processes have unknown dangers.

But trike has been used for over 50 years, and is probably used in over 10,000 degreasing units in this country. With the similarity of structure, warning bells should have gone straight away. Now comes the news that a preliminary U.S. survey links trike to liver cancer. So, to borrow a phrase, "what is to be done?" Two methods of overcoming hazards are the basis of Industrial Health Strategy;

- Control at source by substitution.
- Control by ventilation.

INVESTIGATE

Make a list of the known problems. Get other people to add to the list. Indicate which hazards are the most disturbing.

Ask questions like;
Do any vapours or fumes make you dizzy or give you headaches

Do any dusts make you sneeze or cough?

Do you ever feel as though you have the flu?

Do you feel drowsy or irritable when you get home?

Keep a permanent record of illnesses. Something that causes mild symptoms now may turn out to be serious later. Long-term health hazards are usually discovered only by post-mortems or by studying large numbers of people. And then it is too late!

Have regular and complete medical checks. Get and keep the results, and watch for any changes since last time. Check with other workers to see if they are suffering in

the same way. If they are, the problem could be caused by work hazards. If you eventually have a court case, you will need this information,

MEASURE

You can call in the Factory Inspector to do some monitoring. The local inspector is in the telephone book; there are eight covering Greater Manchester. But the Inspectorate don't have to tell you what they find—if they don't consider it 'appropriate'.

If you do call in the Factory Inspector, don't clean up before he arrives. Make sure he talks to you and not just to the management.

SMELL IT!

You can measure the hazard yourself;

USE YOUR NOSE. Your nose can soon lose its sensitivity and many solvents don't smell anyway. But it will detect dangerous levels of certain chemicals. If you can smell chlorine, ammonia, methanol, trike or tetrachloroethylene, you're getting too much.

SIMPLE MONITORING. Handpumps can give immediate, but not particularly accurate results. There are two suppliers;

Draeger Normalair, tel. Blyth(04706) 2891
A.Pitman Ltd, Mill Works, Jessamy Rd, Weybridge, Surrey tel (0932) 44405

A more relevant sample is one that measure the air you breathe for long periods. You will need a personal monitor for this. They cost £75 from Casella of Regent House, Britannia Walk, London N1.

BSSRS has both a hand pump and a personal monitor but if you(or your union) can get one it will mean there are more in circulation. The ana-

lysis of samples is where tame scientists can really help. It is important to get a sample or estimate. It gives some sort of a guide. To management it is a FACT that acts like a red flag. They may try to deny your sample. If they do, demand continuous monitoring. Vinyl chloride is already monitored continuously—why not all chemicals?



"Well Harry, either the whole plant needs pulling down or you've gotta give up Capstan."

EVALUATE

This is the difficult part. There is such a mass of rubbish that has been produced to uphold the present technologies. The most useful information is usually very hard to come by.

A word on Threshold Limit Values. The TLV is 'the level to which all workers may be repeatedly exposed day after day' It is sometimes called the 'safety level'. There are many reasons to distrust TLVs. They presume the right to pollute, they have not been properly researched (many substances have not—yet—been found to be harmful, because longterm studies have not been carried out on them), they need to be constantly monitored if they are to be enforced, etc.

Again, standards are set for one chemical on its own, and don't take into account reaction with other chemicals. Experimental rats can't drink men do; and drinking in the

pub can bring out a rash in men who've been working with trike.

TLVs give a marginal legal power, although its only been used once so far, but basically don't trust TLVs. They're economic not scientific levels and a sick joke.

Set your own standards.
--No detectable levels of carcinogens.
--set M.A.Cs (maximum allowable concentration) say at 1 of a TLV.

ELIMINATE

There are three main ways to stop pollutants reaching you. Stop them at source. Remove them by ventilation. Or, protect yourself. The first way is the best.

You don't have to rely on management to tell you which is the best way to stop pollution. One useful book is

the POLLUTANT REMOVAL HANDBOOK from Noyes Data Co, Park Ridge, NJ 07656 (Price £15).

Exhaust ventilation is a highly specialised subject but anyone can detect patent defects. Make sure independent consulting engineers design it, supervise construction and test it, especially when dealing with dusts which are far more difficult to control.

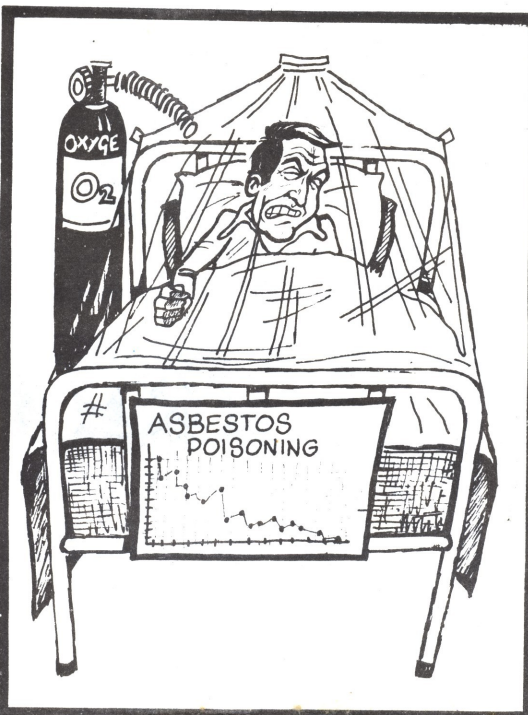
1) One duct diameter from the hood opening, the air speed is reduced to 10%; most duct systems are useless if more than one diameter away from the job.

2) If the ducting looks amateurish, it probably is.
3) Make sure the fan is a centrifugal fan rather than a propeller fan and is powerful enough for the job.

In other words, put your mind to commonsense improvements. A lot of experts won't have thought of these. General ventilation is less effective for dust than gases. Check that you're getting changes of air, not just the same air passed round. Check too to see that the fans aren't for example pulling trike fumes over the welding bay (trike if heated can form phosgene--POISON--TLV is 0.1 ppm).

Not only do respirators shift the cost of contaminants from management to the wearers, but they can be a con, too. The efficiency of those working by suction can fall from 95% to 20% during the shift.

Try to get respirators that do the work of pulling air in for you. Or better still get ones that have their own air supply. Several devices have also been developed, such as speaking diaphragms, to enable some sort of talking.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

1) RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Under the Safety & Health at Work Act, there is an obligation on Factory Inspectors to disclose information to workers.

There is a limitation, though, an Inspector need only disclose

"such information as is necessary for the purpose of keeping persons adequately informed about matter affecting their safety, health and welfare". It means the inspector acts with discretion he can give you information, but does not have an absolute duty to do so.

Outside bodies such as BSSRS cannot get the information. They're tied under section 6 & 2c of the Act.

John Todd, a Glasgow logger, complained to the Factory Inspector that asbestos was being stripped at the Kingston Public Baths, and enquired as to what action was being taken. Apart from being told that some action was being undertaken, he was also informed that, "you will however appreciate that Inspectors are bound by the Official Secrets Act, and there may be certain information obtained during the investigation that could not be disclosed to you." That was in a public wash house....

But it is still essential to maintain links with groups like BSSRS, for they can help formulate the right questions to ask, and are in a position to give information.

The right to information also includes the results of any health checks. E.g. your urine sample for workers handling benzene, which was the demand causing alarm among management at BP Baglan Bay. Similarly, miners in Kent have been trying to obtain the X-rays of their own chests. They are worried about the diagnosis of coal-miners pneumoconiosis, feeling it may have changed with the new lump-sum compensation scheme. But the X-rays, however, are the property of the NHS and NCB. Recently a miner who had been involved for some time with fighting a case, had his personal file/X-rays delivered to his house by mistake. Police were round at his house within two hours.

2) REGULAR HEALTH CHECKS

While recognising that these can be a diversion from the real issue--to clean up the plant--they should be provided whenever there are suspect conditions--e.g. synthetic fibre plants. They are generally carried out on workers liable to recognised diseases--miners have had regular checks for many years.

3) PRETESTING

Put the onus on management to prove a chemical is safe--not on you to prove it's dangerous. The company medical director for American Cyanamid recently said, "To require experimentation with all substances would cripple progress...It would mean sacrificing comforts and luxuries we've long taken for granted." They are worried because there's a Toxic Substances Control Bill going through Congress. No worries here; we're only just recognising the problem. There is still no sign of any standards of testing being set, and still no obligation to test before introduction to the workforce.



The driver of this acid-carrying tanker died when he opened the cap. Was he told of the danger?

It's a shame they don't spend as much on pretesting as they do on sociological testing before introducing a new product.

If you're going to be used unwillingly as a test subject, you need;

4) THE RIGHT TO REGULAR/ CONTINUOUS MONITORING.
PVC plants now have regular and visible vinyl chloride monitoring to show the workers just what they're walking into --why not other chemicals?

5) RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT ASSESSORS

At BP Baglan Bay two BSSRS members were refused admission to the site, despite being invited to speak by the shop-stewards committee and despite the threat of a 24 hour stoppage.

Use the local university where ever possible. Although at Rover, Solihull, management refused to allow members of the Occupational Hygiene Unit at Aston University to investigate noise conditions in the print shop.

6) RIGHTS OF INSPECTION

The Safety & Health Act does not contain any express provisions for inspection although under section 2(4) the secretary of state may make such provisions when providing for the appointment of safety officers. You can use section 123 of the Mines & Quarries Act which established the right for miners to inspect their work conditions.

7) THE RIGHT TO WALK OFF OR STRIKE WITHOUT VICTIMISATION

In the US Supreme Court recently, a decision was made that any stoppage must be 'justified' by presenting 'objective' data or evidence of the hazard; in advance.

8) THE RIGHT TO BLACK

Dockers banned the handling of asbestos in 1967 despite attempts by Port authorities to convince them there was no evidence to prove longterm effects from short-term exposure to the dust. The dockers action is now fully justified. They have now blacked a cargo of PVC. Now the evidence of PVC pneumoconiosis is appearing.

9) RE-ENGINEER THE PLANT- NOT THE PEOPLE

*At GKN Telford, workers refused to work an 1800000 press due to a high pitched whine. It was sent back to the manufacturers who put in f100

worth of rubber mounting to eradicate the whine. If they hadn't refused to work the machine they would still be wearing earmuffs.

* Substitution of carborundum for sandstone was the classic way of reducing the appalling toll of life of Sheffield cutlers.

*Introducing mobile ventilation systems, rather than wearing respirators.

11) DAY RELEASE COURSES

Management have their days off, most days of the week, so the stewards should have time off to go on courses--so that they can have the time and facilities to understand and find out about the hazards.

12) MODEL CONTRACTS

All these demands could be incorporated in a model contract.

Direct Action

SYNDICALIST WORKERS' FEDERATION.

109 Oxford Rd,
Manchester,1.

london workers'
group .
c/o 182 upper st,
London,N,1.

I.W.W.

P.O. Box 48.
Oldham, Lancs

phone service with facility

10) ORGANISE A LEVY TO PROVIDE INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE FACILITIES

By organising industry to pay a nominal fee for each hour worked to go into a Safety And Health fund, funds for books, films, speakers etc can be provided. In the USA the Union of Rubber Workers established a 1-cent levy per man hour worked (about a farthing). Imagine if the TGWU did the same!

SOME USEFUL ADDRESSES

EMPLOYMENT MEDICAL ADVISORY SERVICE:
Quay House, Quay St, M6cr 3
(061) 832 7137

DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER. Clinical Science Buildings, York Place M13.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH UNIT
Central Middlesex Hospital,
Park Royal, London NW10

BRITISH CHEMICAL INDUSTRY ASSN
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USEFUL BOOKS

HAZARDS OF WORK, Pat Kinnersley.
Pluto Press 90p. *

WORK IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH, Stellman & Daum
Random-Vintage, 90p *

DANGEROUS PROPERTIES OF INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS, Sax,
Van Nostrand Reinhold, £19
--in Central Ref. Library

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY.
£20, I.L.O., 40 Piccadilly,
London W1

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS
Hunter, English Univ. Press.

HAZARDS IN THE CHEMICAL LABORATORY, D.C.Muir RIC London.

HMSO Technical Data Notes on various substances; available from Factory Inspectorate.

METHODS FOR DETECTION OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN AIR, HMSO, 20p each.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE SAFETY BOOKLETS on various hazards; biological, chemical, radiation and electrical.

Imperial College, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2AZ

CHEMICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL BUYERS GUIDE translates brand names into scientific names. From The Chemical Society, Blackhouse Road, Letchworth, Herts.

Thanks to Mole Express,
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5

RALPH STEIN

FREE FREE
FREE FREE
RALF RALF
RALF RALF
STEINSTEIN

On the 13th. June Ralph Stein underwent further interrogation. His lawyer has complained to the court and protested about his continuation of imprisonment.

It may be weeks before we are in a position to give full details about the charges. All efforts of the defense committee to break the silence of the daily press on Ralph's arrest and the background have failed.

The prosecution is making use of the ill-reputed paragraph 129 and saying Ralph supported a criminal organisation. This paragraph, introduced in 1969 has become a weapon by means of which anybody resisting injustice can be criminalised and outlawed. The emergency law constitutes a flagrant breach of the constitutional rights (Grundrechte) and was rushed through legislation with support of the Social democrats, liberals and reactionary parties.

The prosecution bases its accusations on statements made to the police by Katja May and Robert Hofman (Köln) who were propagating "armed insurrections" (in a very amateur fashion at that). They had no direct contact with the comrades of the Befreiungs group who were predominantly engaged in legalised industrial struggle.

"Befreiung" (Liberation) has in the past repeatedly openly condemned the methods of the R.A.F. and 2nd. June movement. The fact that Schwarz-kreuz (Black Cross) was supported by the "Befreiung" group (aiding the defence of prisoners suffering injustice, including political prisoners) has given the law the excuse to declare Ralph Stein and anybody supporting Aid organisations "sympathisers" of terrorists.

Jürgen Bodeaux whose questionable part in the Red Isle plots has been exposed in a newsletter issued by the I.A.T. has also tried to infiltrate the "Befreiung" collective, but was rejected by the comrades since he showed no inclination to take a responsible part in the constructive work. He now revengefully and maliciously, has told the police that Ralph acted as quartermaster for the Red-Ruhr Army. All evidence points to the fact that Bodeaux has become a protégé of the Verfassungsschutz. The I.A.T. published in "Mit-Teilung" issue No. 7 an account of the methods employed by the sinister Verfassungsschutz security organisations.

After Ralph Stein's arrest his private bank account was taken possession of, by the police believing it to be a Red Aid account. His home was raided and at the same time searches and short arrests took place in Essen and elsewhere. Surprisingly there were no other raids

and arrests involving "Befreiung" comrades in Köln, which can only mean that comrades are under close observations from the authorities.

Ralph is still in Ossendorf prison. During the Stockholm siege he was kept for two days in strict isolation. But the police and security organs soon established that secret Baader-Meinhof communications did not pass on to him and that his name was not included on the list of prisoners to be liberated. This fact alone calls for Ralph's release.

Inaccurate information supplied to the I.A.T. after his arrest led to the erroneous statement that he was chief editor of "Befreiung". This is not the case as "Befreiung" is run by a collective. Also note that his private address as given in the second communication of the defence committee is no longer valid. Comrades abroad protesting to the judge and prosecutor are urgently asked not to refer to Ralph Stein as editor of "Befreiung".

Letters of solidarity, newspapers and books may still be mailed to Defence Committee for Ralph Stein, c/o Ralph Aurand, 5, Köln 30 Tieckstr. 49. West Germany. British Liaison Committee. A. McGowan, c/o 83a Haverstock Hill, London. N.W.3.

I.A.T.



"THE LAGER THEY COME,
THE HARDER THEY FALL".

Bitter Brew!

Brewery workers at the Carlsberg Brewery in Copenhagen are on strike at this moment after the Mens Union (men and women brewery workers are in different Unions) had sold them out in their fight for equal pay with the women workers. The Union had agreed to a deal with the management which meant 128 redundancies amongst the men as the price of equal pay.

As this is an illegal strike (virtually all strikes are illegal in Denmark) the Labour Court has fined the Union Kr150,000 and the men have been fined Kr8.75 per hour or Kr70 per day whilst they remain on strike. As is the usual practice these fines will be taken out of the mens wagepackets when they return to work.

The men are being supported in their struggle by the women brewery workers. It's a pity that some of the male workers in this country can't take a leaf out of the female Carlsberg workers book and support their female colleagues in their fight for equal pay.

The SWF has been recently engaged in extending its international contacts, and in future issues we'll be printing articles from foreign Syndicalist papers. In our next issue, we shall have a translation from the German paper "Befreiung". We need translators for the major European languages, especially Portuguese. If anyone can help contact the Manchester address.

At home the SWF are holding a number of public meetings to present Syndicalism to the public. If a group require a speaker, contact either Manchester or London groups.

The north east Manchester group are holding weekly meetings contact D. Pattison, 83 Thorncliffe Ave Dukinfield, Cheshire,

freedom

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LIBERTARIAN STRUGGLE Monthly paper of the Anarchist Workers Association.
Available (10p plus 5p postage) from A.W.A. 13 Colman St. Hull, Humberside

JOIN THE PROFESSIONALS

THE ARMY OF THE UNEMPLOYED
THE ARMY OF THE UNEMPLOYED

As the unemployment figures zoom ever upwards in the North West, the army has been having a field day with their recruiting. Manchester has proved to be very good indeed for these vultures who were boasting in the columns of the Evening News of their success.

However, there is another side to the coin, since the Irish troubles started there have been 780 who deserted, 1350 who bought themselves out and 4,900 Court Martials. No doubt all this accounts for the States attitude to the BWNIC's leaflet 'Some information for discontented soldiers' and to recent arrests at the show in Platt Fields Park Manchester, where the army were putting on a display. Six members of the Liberation theatre group were arrested and charged with insulting words and behaviour. Bail was refused, and when the group appeared in court the police asked that their finger prints should be taken. The prosecution demanded a remand in custody until 29th. July. It was reported in court that a report would be sent to the D.P.P. suggesting a charge under the 1934 Incitement to Disaffection Act. The penalty is up to 2 years in jail, or life if conspiracy is added. It is thought that the Police will wait until after the trial of the BWNIC 14 in September, to bring the further charge of incitement

Many young men may feel that life in the Army would be preferable to life on the dole. The adverts stress the money to be earned and the adventures to be had. With unemployment standing at 1,250,000 the temptation must be very great if you've just left school with no prospect of a job! You can see all the desirable things to be had if you've got the money motorbikes, stereos, clothes entertainment.

Most other countries in the Common Market have conscription, which Britain has now discontinued, and therefore relies on a volunteer Army. This consequently makes the State extremely sensitive to interference with their recruiting programme. However, most of the anti-militarist propaganda tends to the academic or moralistic, missing any real appeal to working class youth.

The basis of any anti-military campaign must be that of approaching young, who make up the cannon fodder of the Army, on the terms of their everyday lives. We have to give a meaningful answer to their demand for adventure, and a wage that's more than the pittance of the dole.

This type of campaign would concentrate on the positive wants of the unemployed. It would be a campaign that highlighted such items of news as that of the ill-treatment of young soldiers at Brasington Camp, in Cambridgeshire. Trainees were punched and kicked by N.C.O.s. A soldier who collapsed while carrying a 56lbs pack on a route march was denied a drink of water. Others were tipped from their beds, and then punched for not having them made up.

A soldier may get good pay, but he's on call 24 hours a day. His time is never his own, he's subject to Army authority at all times. What appears to be a good wage for 8 hours work is not so good for 24.

As for the adventure, it's not all sandy, palm covered beaches, yachts in summer and a bit of skiing in the winter. The British Army's trips abroad aren't usually to the holiday resorts. Belfast isn't number one at the travel agents, and it's not because of the high rainfall.

The Army doesn't exist to do you a favour, it's a force of repression, not a holiday club. The discipline of the Army is there to make you more afraid of the officers and the N.C.O.s than the enemy (whoever they are at the time). However it is not for us to moralise, there is no Recruiting Sergeant better than unemployment. However, the way forward is to relate the soldiers' situation to that of the class struggle.



PHOTO FROM THE "BOLTON ALTERNATIVE PRESS"



SWF

7

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109 Oxford Road, Manchester 13

CONT'D FROM FRONT PAGE

£600 million of British capital has been invested in the other Common market countries. France and Germany have each pumped several thousand million pounds into their economies, partly as an act of reflation but mainly to avoid the long term political consequences of mass unemployment. Many millions more of British capital has been channelled into the property speculation market or has been salted away in antiques and "objects d'art". All this wealth has come the sweat of the British worker. If it had been re-invested in re-tooling British industry Britain would have remained in World trade.

FINANCIAL CHICANERY

In 1974 average profits were 46% up on the previous year yet companies like British Leyland spent their surpluses on inflated salaries for top management and increased dividends for shareholders. Takeovers and asset stripping was the order the day. The result of all this financial chicanery is that the British public has to foot the bill for re-building and modernising industry. In the last Budget, Healy set up a fund of £1.5 billion pounds for this purpose. Naturally the financial tricksters are already trying to get their hands on some of this, e.g. Manganese Bronze working through their N.V.T. frontman Dennis Poore. Of the £4½ million which was lent to the Meriden motor cycle co-operative last year the greater part went to Manganese Bronze for the sale of assets and loan charges. Now N.V.T. wants £40 million more. Poore also wants to close the Wolverhampton factory at Small Heath. Meantime of over a quarter of a million motor bikes sold in this country 96% were foreign built, as were 40% of the cars.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE

What is to be done to change this situation? All the political parties, the employers and the T.U.C. offer workers participation in industry as their answer. Workers "Directors" can explain to the workforce why their wages must be kept down if profits are to keep up. Who better than workers Personnel managers to reduce the numbers employed to "satisfactory manning levels"? Satisfactory for whom? The Bosses! The only way forward for the working class is to organise from the bottom up towards workers' CONTROL of industry in order to eliminate the class system forever

SHEEP AT HEAPS

Want a sheeplike workforce? Maybe you should try the approach being employed by Samuel Heap, Bleaching and Dyeing Mill, in Rochdale.

With the dole queue in the town lengthening daily this Courtaulds' Mill is still operating a 12 hour, 2 shift system which effectively reduces labour requirements by one third. Nice to know that in these bleak times, some local workers are still doing a 60 hour week.

But if you're thinking of getting a start, think again, because to get on at Heaps you need to be well in with a certain form.

Perhaps you wouldn't want to work there, especially if you knew that since the company promoted Arthur Sheppard, previously a good shop steward on night shift, the management has been insisting that the present unpopular and unelected shop steward stays in office for a year. The men on nights are not being allowed to choose their own steward.

Complaints to the Union, The National Union of Dyers & Bleachers, about their steward and conditions at the mill are being ignored. Union members at the mill, believe their union could do much more to consult and inform them about matters of importance at Heaps. When the union official, who never seem to call a full meeting of members, do visit the mill, they approach the management than the men. Consequently, the night shift members can't out what is happening in negotiations, because their steward refuses to tell them.

CONTROLLING THE FLOCK.

There is much dissatisfaction on the night shift, and one source informs us, that the mill management prefer Pakistani to English workers, because they are more easily manipulated and controlled. Many militant Pakistanis on the shift, are unhappy about the favouritism which seems to operate at Heaps in the allocation of jobs to a very servile class of Pakistani worker, often friends of the form.

Now there are allegations that workers, both Pakistani and English, regarded as troublesome are being moved around the mill to perform unpleasant tasks, possible with a view to wearing down their resistance, and getting them to leave the company.

We would have thought that a union which had just been embarrassed in a strike fiasco at Intex Yarns Ashton, would anxious to avoid a repeat performance, and seek to avoid a build up of discontents. At Samuel Heap, it is clear that little effort is being made by the union to ensure both that the opinion of the membership is being considered, or that a proper system for dealing with shepfloor complaints is being operated effectively. A responsible union would at least have machinery so that rank and file views could be put, shop stewards elected as acceptable representatives of the men and management abuses resisted, it should also be willing to look at the wider social implications of having its members working a 60 hour week during our worst period of unemployment since the war. In actual fact all of the officials, in the tiny textile unions in the north, wants is a quiet life and a healthy bank balance.

Northern Workers.



AIT-IWA

Our Aims and Principles

THE SYNDICALIST WORKERS FEDERATION: seeks to establish a free society which will render impossible the growth of a privileged class and the exploitation of man by man. The S.W.F. therefore advocates common ownership and workers control of the land, industry and all means of production and distribution on the basis of voluntary co-operation. In such a society the wage system, finance and money shall be abolished and goods produced and distributed not for profit, but according to human needs.

THE STATE: The State in all its forms, embodying authority and privilege, is the enemy of the workers and can not exist in a free, classless society. The S.W.F. does not therefore hope to use the state to achieve a free society, it does not seek to obtain seats in the Cabinet or in Parliament. It aims at the abolition of the state. It actively opposes all war and militarism.

CLASS STRUGGLE: The interests of the working class and those of the working class are directly opposed. The S.W.F. is based on the inevitable day to day struggle of the workers against those who own and control the means of production and distribution, and will continue that struggle until common ownership and workers control are achieved.

DIRECT ACTION: Victory in the fight against class domination can be achieved only by the direct action and solidarity of the workers themselves. The S.W.F. rejects all Parliamentary and similar activity as deflecting the workers from the class struggle into paths of class collaboration.

ORGANISATION: To achieve a free, classless society the workers must organise. They must replace the hundreds of craft and general trade unions by syndicalist industrial unions. As an immediate step to that end the S.W.F. aids the formation of workers committees in all factories, mines, offices, shipyards, mills, and other places of work and there development into syndicates, federated nationally. Such syndicates will be under direct rank and file control, with all delegates subject to immediate recall.

INTERNATIONALISM: The S.W.F. as a section of the International Workers Association, stands firm for international working class solidarity.

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Our comrades of the Portuguese Anarcho-Syndicalist movement, and their fortnightly paper A Batalha need our support so that they are able to present a revolutionary alternative to the Portuguese workers. Please send **MONEY**, books and support to

A Batalha
Rua Angelina Vidal, 17-2 Esq
Lisbon, Portugal

THE MANCHESTER SYNDICALIST WORKERS FEDERATION hold weekly meetings contact the M/C. secretary for details. Write to 109 Oxford Rd. Manchester 1

LIBERTARIAN WOMENS NETWORK
Contact Alison Malet
1 Lynnewood Place,
Dundee
Angus



Libertarian Communists in Ireland.
Contact; Alan Mac Simoin
4, Ard Lui Park,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

BLACK FLAG Organ of the Anarchist
Black Cross. 13p. for a sample copy
from: 83a Haverstock Hill, London N.W.3

CONT'D FROM PAGE 2

within the context of the workers having full responsibility and administrative control of their workplaces. In this way a thorough anarcho-syndicalist programme would bring a reconstruction of the economy based on workers' control, so that workers through supervisory councils would be able to decide for themselves about the principles of dividing income consumption and investment. So long as wage-earners remain alienated from capital the wage-price spiral will continue and will not be halted by involving trade union functionaries in a state incomes policy. Such T.U. officials lose the trust of their members overnight. No, only a complete takeover by the workers of the factories and industries, can begin to solve the economic problems in this country.

What we as syndicalists should now be doing is not calling on the government to resign as some anarchists have been doing, but rather examining how the blokes and lasses on the shop-floor explain their own situations at work and to build some constructive theory of syndicalist organisation within the context of the different industries, and inside the workers' own conception of the world.

Clever pronouncements and pretentious proclamations claiming to know what the "real situation is, should be avoided and left to the "Workers' Press", the British Labour Government, and other pundits to sort out. What we should be concerned with at this stage is grasping everyday life as it is subjectively perceived and described by workers.

Only by dovetailing our activities into that of the factory and plant can we develop our own ideas and penetrate in a meaningful way into the lives of working men and women.

Shopfloor Syndicalist.